

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



JANET MITCHELL

What is your occupation?

I am the Business Developer for Express Employment Professionals in Hermiston.

What do you like about your job?

The positive impact we have on people's lives every day.

In which town do you live?

Echo.

How long have you lived there?

I grew up there but moved out of the area when I was 21. I just moved back to Echo in February of this year.

What do you like best about it?

It's a slower pace of life than Eugene (where I lived for almost 30 years) and I love that.

What are your hobbies?

Cooking, reading, taking care of my dog.

Do you have any favorite movies, books or tv shows? What are they?

Favorite movie: *The Shack*. Favorite book: *Outlander* series. Favorite TV Shows: *Outlander* and most dramas

Can you tell me about your favorite teacher?

What did you learn from that person?

Dr. Jacobson at Blue Mountain Community College. He was my biology instructor. I learned I have more red blood cells than most men, which apparently is uncommon for women.

Can you tell me about your family?

My parents live in the area. My brother and his wife live in Clarkston, Washington. My sister lives in Eugene. I have two nephews, four nieces, four great-nieces and three great nephews.

When you meet strangers, what do you tell them about yourself first?

About my love for dogs. I've been an advocate of dog rescue programs for the last 20 years. Adopt, don't shop!

HERMISTON HISTORY

Fire chief urges people to be careful in 1921

25 YEARS AGO
Oct. 15, 1996

Grant Asher is enjoying every bit of retirement, though it's much different than the "normal" retirement. Since retiring as Hermiston Police Department chief in November 1994, he's become a private investigator, sports official, safety teacher and more.

He enjoys the thrill and variety of being a private investigator, mainly working for defense attorneys with cases like accidents, unfaithful spouses and child custody. One of Asher's more interesting cases involved theft and vandalism for a huge Washington farm, with drugs and gun running also suspected.

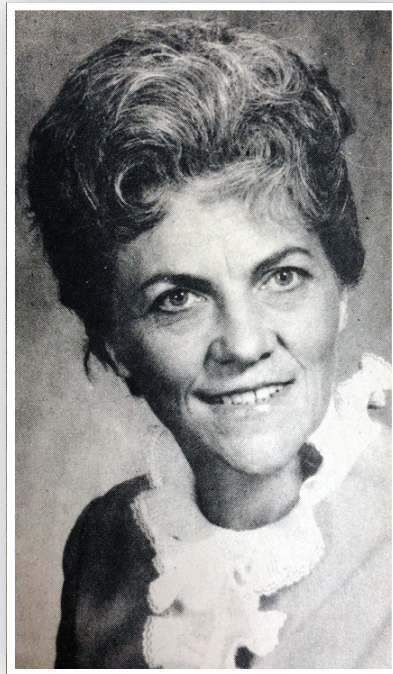
"I spent 30 hours a month for five months on that farm investigating and providing security. That was fun." Still wanting to be involved in the justice and corrections systems, Asher teaches gun safety, personal protection and a lethal weapons class for Blue Mountain Community College, and advises criminal justice students. If all this isn't enough, he also officiates sports games for youths through adults.

Though Asher is engaged in many activities, he claims, "I wouldn't want to spend 40 hours a week at any of them." He likes to stay busy doing multiple activities, not solely dedicated to just one. "I'm a jack of all trades, a master of none."

50 YEARS AGO
Oct. 14, 1971

On Oct. 30, Hermiston will have the pleasure of hosting former Hitler-worshiper and escapee Mrs. Maria Hirschmann, who will speak of her experiences and renewed Christian faith at the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Highland Avenue.

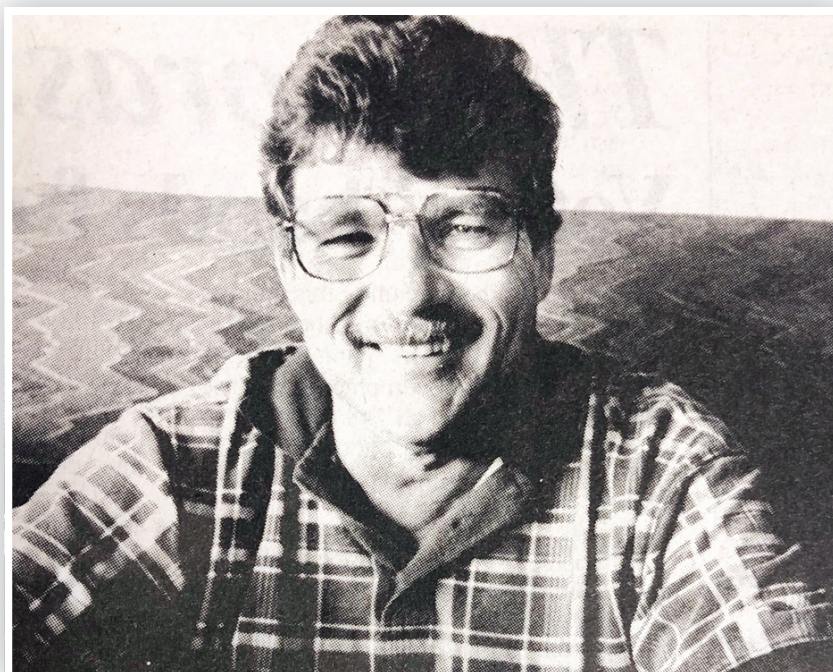
At the age of 14, Maria underwent training to become a Hitler Youth Leader in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in which her Christian image of God was changed to Hitler and the "Mein Kampf" became her new Bible. Many trusted and viewed Hitler as a messiah because he'd brought hope and employment to Germany — but after Maria observed the brutality and starvation of a Russian camp in Bohemia, she became out-



Hermiston Herald, File
Maria Hirschmann was scheduled to speak in October 1971 at a Hermiston church about her faith and life as a once-Hitler worshiper.



Joyce Hensley/Hermiston Herald, File
Grant Asher, former Hermiston Police Department chief, officiates a football game in October 1996 between Umatilla and Pilot Rock.



Joyce Hensley/Hermiston Herald, File
A couple of years after retiring as the Hermiston police chief, Grant Asher shared in October 1996 that he remained busy as a private investigator, teaching personal safety classes at Blue Mountain Community College and officiating youth and adult sports.

raged and disgusted. She then made a walk/run escape all the way to East Germany, through no man's land, and to the safety of West Germany where she eventually married a former U-boat officer.

The Hirschmanns lived in Munich before coming to the United States in 1995, where she is a counselor-teacher in a California school for dropouts and he is studying for his PhD. She appreciates America and often says, "Freedom makes good people better, and bad people worse."

75 YEARS AGO
Oct. 17, 1946

Crashing into structures is dangerous enough, without having a 750-pound siren falling down as well.

Leighton Smith of Hermiston was driving by the First National Bank building when his front left tire blew out and caused him to swerve, hitting the steel tower hosting the fire siren and bell that stood at the intersection of First and Main. The siren landed just a few feet away from Smith's car, and though it was undoubtedly frightening, Smith was exceedingly fortunate that the siren missed him.

After falling to the pavement, the siren was considered a total loss. The old fire bell, however, was more fortunate and didn't sustain any damages. It was soon removed from the tower and placed on a temporary

structure near the jail for use during the emergency.

City councilmen met three days later to make arrangements for replacing the siren and tower.

100 YEARS AGO
Oct. 13, 1921

You may recall reading about the \$20,000 fire that happened in Hermiston about a month before (in 1921). Well, due to that fire and the fact that it's Fire Prevention Week, local fire chief I.E. Putman asks people to be more conscientious and careful.

Films educating about fire safety are planned to be played at schools this week, along with some guest speaking in the hope of making the public more aware of the dangers of fires before, not after, they happen. Hermistonians are asked to clean up prime fire materials — like rags, old papers, shavings — that are commonly found in houses and around the town to prevent another drastic fire from occurring.

In addition, Putman stresses the point that it doesn't matter if you're insured. Insurance won't entirely cover the loss a fire brings, and even if it does, the fire could spread to uninsured property.

McKenzie Rose, a sophomore at Echo High School, searched Hermiston Herald archives to compile these article summaries.

BY THE WAY

Umatilla library reopens for in-person service

Starting Monday, Oct. 18, **The Umatilla Public Library** reopens its doors to the public. Hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Curbside service is available during business hours. Deliveries are Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Pet Rescue & Harley Swain Subaru Loves Pets Adoption Event is Saturday, Oct. 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at **Pet Rescue Humane Society of Eastern Oregon**, 1844 N.W. Geer Road, Hermiston.

Harley Swain Subaru of Hermiston is sponsoring all adoption fees at the event. **Petsense** in Hermiston will be giving away a free coupon book for each animal adopted. These coupons help with food, treats, tags and collars.

Echo Kiwanis hosts its fourth annual **Oktoberfest** Saturday, Oct. 16. This year's event is on **Bonanza Street**, between H & P Cafe, 231 W. Main St.; **Echo Community Church**, 21 N. Bonanza St.; and **The Echo Fire Department**, 311 W. Main St. Oktoberfest will include a beer garden, food and music. Food service begins at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20.

The street permit approved by the city council allows music outside until 10 p.m., in compliance with the city's noise code. ID is required for alcoholic beverages. Please do not call the police about the music before 10 p.m.

Alcoholic beverages must remain within the beer garden perimeter and cannot be in the park. Net proceeds

will support the old St. Peter's Church historic landmark and scholarships.

It is chowder time again, as the **Hermiston Lions Club** is selling **Mo's Famous Clam Chowder**. Chowder base is \$13 per quart, bread is \$7 per loaf, garlic cheese butter is \$5 per pint and marionberry cobbler is \$25 per pan.

The Lions are taking orders through **Oct. 20**, and pick-up date is Oct. 28, 4-6 p.m. at the **West Park Elementary School** parking lot. Customers will receive an email prior to pick-up date to confirm time.

To order, contact a Lions Club member or call 541-567-8301.

The **Hermiston Linebackers Club** invites football fans to join the huddle. A no-host luncheon meeting is Thursday, Oct. 14, noon to 1 p.m., at **Desert Lanes Family Fun Center**, 1045 N. First St., Hermiston.

Coach **David Faeteete** will discuss the team's recent loss against the **Southridge Suns** and share the game plan as they take on the **Kennebec Lions**. For more information, or to RSVP, contact **Flora Larson** at 541-567-5215 Wednesday by 3 p.m.

The **Hermiston School District** is hosting a **Community Listening Session** Monday, Oct. 18, 7-8 p.m. at **Armand Larive Middle School**, 1497 S.W. Ninth St., Hermiston.

The meeting provides an opportunity for parents and community members to engage in conversation with dis-

trict administrative staff and board of education members. For more information, contact communications@hermiston.org, 541-667-6010 or visit www.hermiston.k12.or.us.

The **Hermiston Herald** still is seeking your real-life scary stories. See our Facebook page for more information. To enter, Hermiston area residents are invited to post their story (up to 300 words) no later than **Saturday, Oct. 30**, at noon via www.facebook.com/HermistonHerald.

We'll choose the scariest story and print it in the **Herald's Nov. 3** edition. The winner will receive a \$20 gift card to a local coffee shop and a copy of the newspaper that has their story.

The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for **Thursday, Oct. 14**, is creamy Italian sausage casserole, garlic bread and dessert. The menu for **Tuesday, Oct. 19**, is spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and dessert. (In-house meals will be served from noon to 12:30 p.m. People planning to dine in are asked to call by 11 a.m.)

For a **Meals on Wheels** delivery in Hermiston, call **541-567-3582** before 10 a.m. to place an order. To pick up a meal from the center at 255 N.E. Second St., call before 11 a.m. Meals are \$5 and can be picked up between 11:30 a.m. and noon.

The **Boardman Senior Center** now is providing meal delivery. Meals are \$4 paid upon delivery. Call 541-481-3257 to order.